

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of November 29, 2000. Marked up versions of the amended claims are included in an Appendix attached hereto.

It is respectfully submitted that this amendment will require neither a new search nor substantial reconsideration.

The specification has been amended with respect to the recitation of the priority and the description of the drawings thereby obviating the Examiner's objections in this regard.

The Examiner has rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In response, the Applicant has amended the claims to include "an elongate web". Additionally, the Applicant has amended Claim 53 to recite that the closed loop is formed beyond the portions which are substantially parallel to each other. It is respectfully submitted that the two legs can have portions which are substantially parallel to each other contributing to the "H-shape", and that the legs can ultimately meet outside of this parallel portion thereby forming a closed loop while maintaining a recognizable H-shape.

The Examiner has rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by the Weeks reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,092,684). However, the newly-amended claims recite the web

and that the fastener flanges are perpendicular to the web length. Additionally, the claims recite a mounting lip. This is quite different from the Weeks reference wherein zipper elements 18, 20 are extruded from die elements 52, 54 (see col. 4, lines 52, 53 and Figure 6) so as to be longitudinally directed on the web. Moreover, no mounting lip is disclosed or suggested by the Weeks reference.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims are patentable.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejections of the claims, to allow the claims, and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ronald E. Brown', followed by a checkmark.

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